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United States
Department of
Agriculture

National
Agricultural
Library

Office of the
Director

Beltsville, Maryland
20705

Slap/Slap #10386055

No. 44, April 27, 1984

NAL NEWS NOTES

NAL RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION FROM ALA

**KNOWLEDGE
IS REAL POWER**

The American Library Association and
its National Library Week Committee
commend

**National
Agricultural Library**

for becoming a national partner in the
27th annual observance of
National Library Week--April 8-14, 1984
and for strengthening public
understanding of the importance
of libraries for our nation

Bessie C. Sheldon

President

Betty Stone

Chair, National Library
Week Committee

On April 5, Marilyn Jacobs, Educational Resources, attended a National Library Week Partners Preview at the Library of Congress. The meeting highlighted some of the new technological developments that undoubtedly will make dramatic changes in our libraries of the future. A film entitled "Preserving Our Heritage for the Future" showed the far-reaching preservation programs of the Library of Congress and was followed by a demonstration of practical applications using laser disk technology for library collection storage and use and its potential for providing better service to patrons in the future. NAL was also presented with a certificate commending our partnership efforts and activities during National Library Week--including our popular exhibit at the Laurel Centre Mall--and throughout the year from the American Library Association. (Jacobs)

CELEBRATION OF SPRING

The Associates of the NAL were pleased to present a reception and program for NAL retirees on April 6. Mistress of Ceremonies Leila Moran welcomed our guests and introduced our new director, Joseph Howard, who opened the

festivities. Our past employees were treated to a viewing of our videotape "The Information Cycle" starring past and present NAL staff and produced by David Hoyt, Head, Lending Branch. Harry Dewey, President of the Associates NAL, Inc., Mr. Howard, and Louise Bruce, Building Manager, officiated the Arbor Day ceremony. A beautiful large American Holly, donated by National Arboretum, was planted on the grounds of NAL. Our guests were then escorted to the conference room for refreshments (compliments of the Associates), and a briefing on some of NAL's special projects. Mr. Howard spoke on the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations and Samuel Waters, Associate Director, brought everyone up-to-date on the NAL reorganization. We were pleased to see so many of our previous co-workers and to have the opportunity to meet those retirees that came before us. (Jacobs)

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With the retirement of Leila Moran, Agricultural Libraries Information Notes (ALIN) is being temporarily edited by Gene Farkas, assisted by Marilyn Jacobs, beginning with the April issue. Contributions in the form of article ideas and appropriate news items will be welcomed. As founder (1975) and only editor of ALIN, Leila developed the newsletter (circulation 3,000) into NAL's major channel of communication with the land-grant libraries and the agricultural library and information service world generally. Obviously, she will be missed. (Farkas)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Jesse Ostroff, F&SP, has been spending considerable time conducting a search for Dr. William W. Buisch, Head of Veterinary Services' (APHIS), National Emergency Field Operations (NEFO). The NEFO is actively engaged in controlling and hopefully eradicating the current outbreak of avian influenza in the Middle Atlantic States. The emphasis of the search was placed on suitable disinfectants of poultry houses. Searches were conducted on both the MEDLARS (MEDLINE and TOXLINE) and DIALOG (AGRICOLA, CAB, BIOPREVIEWS, and CAS) databases on epidemicologic, therapeutic, and preventive aspects. (Forbes)

BLACK RURAL LIFE EXHIBIT

The exhibit produced by Alan Fusonie, NAL and Howard Kerr, ARS, entitled "Black Rural Life in America" was on display at the Washington Hilton Hotel from March 29 to April 1 during a conference sponsored by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. The organization, comprised of more than 100 historically black colleges and universities, attracts the nation's leading educators and representatives from education-related businesses and professions to its annual conference. (Fusonie)

WE "OUGHT" TO BE IN PICTURES---

and so we were! NAL has again been the recipient of media attention, this time for the television cameras. Maryland Public Television (Channel 22 in Annapolis and 67 in Baltimore) visited NAL on April 4. The results were

aired on the series "Up on the Farm" moderated by Charlotte Nichols, Associate Producer, Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, at 7:30 p.m. on April 23. Les Kulp, Chief, Collection Development, and Alan Fusonie, Historian, NAL, were the stars. A videotape copy of the program is being sent to us, so if you missed "opening night" stop by Educational Resources (Room 203) and we will provide a special showing. (Jacobs)

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

The published proceedings of the symposium on "Twentieth Century Agricultural Science" inclusive of an introduction, 23 papers, illustrations, and black and white photographs is now available. This 252-page document should be of interest to many individuals and institutions involved in agricultural science as well as researchers who chart and evaluate the innovations, breakthroughs, and future challenges.

The symposium, held in October 1982, focused on the trends in identification, development, utilization, and dissemination of agricultural information in the 20th century; the interaction between scientists, information specialists, librarians, and others, and the impact of information on current research.

The proceedings, published in the Journal of the NAL Associates, New Series, Vol. 8, Nos. 1/4, Jan./Dec. 1983, is available for \$32.00 plus \$2.54 postage and handling from the Associates NAL, Inc., 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Room 203, Beltsville, MD 20705. (Fusonie)

BELLA EVELYN SCHACHTMAN

On April 19, 1984, Bella Shachtman, a former NAL employee, passed away. She had worked for NAL for 30 years and retired in 1969. At the time of her death she was living in Los Angeles, California.

HOW TO GET MORE FROM YOUR GARDEN

Vegetable gardening is not difficult and can be an enjoyable family activity. According to gardening studies, vegetable gardens when well planned and maintained, can save you money on the food bill. If you follow three simple steps, you will be on your way to a prosperous garden:

1. Always start with a soil test. Soils change and should be tested once every 3 years. The Maryland Cooperative Extension Service provides soil testing for \$4.00 through the county agent's office.

A soil test will analyze the garden soil's acidity (pH), and the levels of magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium. Recommendations to improve the soil are made based on the results.

2. Know your family's vegetable needs and plan the garden accordingly. Pay careful attention to growing those that are "space efficient," productive, and otherwise expensive if you had to buy them in the store.

3. Plan the garden so that there is a succession of crops rather than a sudden surge of crops coming in and a long period of no production. This is accomplished by planting fast maturing plants like radishes, spinach, and lettuce between longer maturing plants like cabbage, broccoli, or tomatoes. (Raymond V. Bosmans, Extension Agent-Urban Agriculture, Howard County, MD)

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES

Senator John Melcher (D-Montana)--information on the growing of artichokes, assisted by Henry Gilbert.

Congressman Richard L. Ottinger (D-New York)--information about feline blood transfusions, assisted by Maria Pisa.

Congressman Toby Roth (R-Wisconsin)--information about the use of plastics in soil conservation, assisted by Maria Pisa.

Congressman William D. Ford (D-Michigan)--information for a constituent on construction of pole barns, assisted by Jayne MacLean.

Jim Davis of the House Agriculture Committee called to ask for production and marketing information on hearts of palm, assisted by Jayne MacLean.

The Senate Rules Committee requested an article from Information Retrieval: A Critical Review. Washington, D.C., Thompson Book, Co., 1967. R. Young provided photocopy.

Congressman John B. Breaux (D-Louisiana)--careers in veterinary medicine, assisted by Jesse Ostroff.

USDA INQUIRIES OF SPECIAL NOTE

Mary Lassanyi was contacted by the Secretary's Office, FAS, Department of State, Under Secretary of Economic Affairs' Office for informational products that might be available from NAL on the following topics:

US-Agricultural Trade and/or Agricultural Market Potential with the Middle East, North Africa, South America, China, (People's Republic), Australia, and US-USSR Grain Trade Agreement.

Information packets were provided on these topics and several new Quick Bibliographies are in progress.

The Office of the Secretary requested that a copy of Quick Bibliography "Small Farms, Family and Part-time Farming in the United States" be forwarded to the Governor's Council on Rural Development in St. Paul, Minnesota. T. Tontarski responded.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO TO ASK--ASK YOUR LIBRARIAN

Jayne MacLean reports that an inquirer wanted to settle a bet--"Do bananas have seeds?" (answer: Wild types do, cultivated ones don't.)

VISITORS

Dr. Maynard A. Amerine, Wine Institute, San Francisco, visited NAL to use our early Nursery/Seed Trade Catalogs. Henry Gilbert assisted.

On March 7, Kathryn Leitzke, Bibliographic Systems Librarian, and Judith Heininghe, Serials Librarian from Prince William Public Libraries System attended a demonstration of the OCLC serials check-in subsystem operations.

Richard L. Sentner and Russell Forte, USDA News Division, March 7. ER assisted.

On March 8, Dr. Logvin A. Overchuk, Agricultural Attache, USSR, and wife (a soil scientist) to deliver a remembrance from Dr. German I. Tarakanov, Timiriachev Agricultural Academy in Moscow, who visited NAL in August 1983; information on soil testing techniques. Tania Tontarski assisted.

Yashio Osada and Hideo Hori, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc., March 8. ER assisted.

Sebe Matsebula, a student from Swaziland, Africa, spent the week of March 13 researching farming systems for developing countries, with assistance from J. MacLean. ER assisted.

Dr. Walter Hill, Assistant Professor of Soil Sciences at Tuskegee Institute, visited the week of March 16. He obtained 120 pages of photocopy. C. McKissick assisted.

On March 21, Dr. Sue Ellen Sloka, Chief, Information Products Branch of the U.S. Department of Interior, visited Idalia Acosta, Serials Section. The purpose was to perform a survey on activities, personnel, and productivity of the section in order to evaluate their internal procedures and systems. Dr. Sloka also met with Pat John, Cataloging Section, to discuss work flow.

Paransih Isbagyo, Agency for Agricultural Research and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia, March 22. ER assisted.

Elaine Cook, Arid Lands Information Center, visited the Indexing Section on March 26.

Dr. Fred E. M. Gillham, Head, Technical Information Section of the International Cotton Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. visited the Indexing Section on March 27.

Dr. Wang Wei-Liang, Beijing Document Service was briefed on the Reading Rooms, the Reference Collection and Services. Tania Tontarski assisted.

Three visitors from the People's Republic of China, March 28, accompanied by John Hounsell, Foreign Affairs Officer, NTIS. ER assisted.

Compiled by Marilyn M. Jacobs, Public Affairs Assistant,
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